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In a mission that requires
absolute perfection, Reservists
are involved right down to the core

REINVIGORATING THE NUCLEAR LOGISTICS ENTERPRISE

page 12



From the Top

By Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr.
Commander, Air Force Reserve Command



Chief's View

By Chief Master Sgt. Dwight Badgett
Command Chief Master Sergeant,
Air Force Reserve Command

Reserve fully engaged in overall effort to reinvigorate nuclear enterprise

During my travels and in conversations with senior leaders, I am repeatedly reminded how integral the Air Force Reserve is to the success of the overall Air Force. It is obvious to all that the Total Force is stronger because the Air Force leverages the strengths and capabilities of the three components.

The Air Force's top priority, laid out by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, is reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise. The Air Force Reserve is fully engaged in this priority. In this issue of *Citizen Airman*, we highlight Reservists with key leadership roles in reinvigorating the nuclear logistics enterprise.

And that's not the only impact the Reserve is having on moving this Air Force priority forward. We are currently establishing B-52 associate units responsible for both conventional and nuclear missions — just another example of the three-component Air Force meeting our nation's security requirements.

We are a full partner with the regular Air Force and Air National Guard to leverage our strengths and capabilities. Sometimes the public and the media quickly recognize our contributions to the nation's defense. For example, our deployments and sacrifices for the war in Iraq and Afghanistan often are covered on a newspaper's front page.

At other times, Reservists support Air Force priorities with less fanfare, but no less importance. For example, our significant contribution toward the Air Force's No. 1 priority, reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise, receives little fanfare, although it is vital to our nation's defense.

At Barksdale Air Force Base, La., the Reserve's 93rd Bomb Squadron quietly transitioned from a conventional combat-coded unit to one with responsibility for the B-52 schoolhouse mission. The 93rd, partnering with its active associate counterpart, the 11th BS, is now responsible for training 100 percent of B-52 crew members in all aspects of their duties, to include the

nuclear mission. At the same time, the 917th Wing is standing up as a classic associate unit under the 2nd Bomb Wing. This combat unit will be responsible for the full range of operational B-52 missions, both conventional and nuclear.

These two units, one an active associate and the other a classic associate, are "on-target" Total Force solutions. The key principle when establishing unit associations should be increased mission effectiveness. Efficiency without effectiveness is a non-starter for our component, our service and our nation.

With the right mix of active and reserve-component Airmen, overall mission effectiveness is increased. In the case of these B-52 unit associations, I'm confident that together we are providing our country with better capability than any single component could produce. The stakes are simply too high to do otherwise, especially in the nuclear arena.

Reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise is a Total Force priority and requires a Total Force focus. Leveraging the experience, continuity and dedication of Reservists, the Air Force puts its best and brightest on the nuclear enterprise priority without regard to component.

In the B-52 schoolhouse, we leverage the experience the Reserve possesses to produce trained and certified B-52 crews to meet national security objectives on an on-going basis. The operational B-52 associate unit will capitalize on the continuity and expertise of Reservists to improve the Air Force's ability to conduct both conventional and nuclear missions.

These examples offer just a glimpse into the Reserve's overall contributions to the Air Force's No. 1 priority, and I'm proud our Citizen Airmen are reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise. We continue to demonstrate the benefits of looking to all three components for solutions to our service's needs and leveraging the best attributes of each component. That is a key to our success now and in the future. ★

**"THE AIR FORCE PUTS ITS BEST AND
BRIGHTEST ON THE NUCLEAR ENTERPRISE
PRIORITY WITHOUT REGARD TO COMPONENT."**

Well-being of our warriors the No. 1 priority in every decision we make

Sometimes we get so caught up in our daily lives that we forget why we exist as the Air Force Reserve Command. We concentrate on our own challenges and don't recognize the importance of finding solutions to problems that directly affect our Airmen and their families.

First and foremost, our mission is to organize, train and equip to be warriors, and we do that as well as anyone on Earth. There are almost 6,000 Air Force Reservists deployed around the world today, and this has been the case for most of the past eight years. Airmen are deployed to many locations to carry out the orders of our commander in chief and to protect our freedoms.

A growing number of these requirements dictate that we perform tasks we might think are outside our traditional Air Force core competencies, but they're really not. We are now trained to be warriors in basic military training and continue that focus through recurring contingency training to stay proficient and prepared.

Our warriors attend additional pre-deployment training for Airmen who may be required to work "outside the wire" during a deployment, but we should ensure the training is relevant and productive. As an expeditionary Air Force, we must always see ourselves as warrior teammates with our sister services.

There is no better example of a warrior than our own Tech. Sgt. Tony Campbell. Tony was an explosive ordnance disposal craftsman in the 932nd Civil Engineer Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. He was a true professional, both technically and militarily. He served on active duty and in the Air National Guard in two states before becoming a Reservist and law enforcement officer with the city of Cincinnati.

Tony was killed Dec. 15 in Afghanistan by an improvised explosive device. There are many parts to the story of Tony's life, but in the most basic sense, he was an American hero who gave his life doing what he loved in the defense of his country.

We owe Tony and the rest of our nation's warriors more than we can repay. How do you put a value on the sacrifices and dedication of people who voluntarily put their lives on the line for each and every one of us? The answer is you can't. But we can work hard to ensure we provide the necessary tools and

training to make our Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen successful as they carry out their mission.

As an Air Force and nation, we should always consider the well-being of our warriors in every decision we make and everything we do. Whether it is improving pay and benefits, purchasing adequate equipment, providing world-class training or something as basic as making sure our Airmen have the proper uniform items, we can never forget that what's best for our warriors should always drive our decisions.

Unfortunately, we don't have an unlimited budget, and sometimes that means we have to make tough decisions on where precious resources are used. As we make these decisions, I commit to you that accomplishing the mission and taking care of Airmen and their families are at the core of your leadership's decision-making process.

Current programs are designed to support our returning warriors. Yellow Ribbon Reintegration, Tricare for Guard and Reserve members, professional mental and emotional health care, and many more programs are designed to support our warriors. These programs were initiated and should be used to improve the lives of our service members, no matter what their status. We must all work every day to ensure the basic needs of our Airmen are being met, to include necessary medical care when returning from deployments.

Each of these corporate efforts is critical in supporting the warrior, and your Air Force works continuously to protect the welfare of our Airmen. But, there is no replacement for taking care of each other, because you know your wingman better than anyone else. You are our most valuable resource when it comes to caring for your warrior teammates. You see subtle changes in behavior or attitude that can signal much deeper issues.

These situations are not unique to those who have or will deploy. Daily life presents challenges that can sometimes seem more than we can bear. I challenge you to assume the responsibility to be that wingman we all want to be and watch out for each other. I take that responsibility very seriously, and I know you will do the same in everything you do as a Citizen Airman. ★

Airman Citizen

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On the front cover: (Top) Air Force Reservists are playing key roles as part of a joint team dedicated to achieving the chief of staff's No. 1 priority: reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise. For more on what they are doing in support of this effort, see the story on Page 12. (Bottom left) The 2010 Reserve pay chart, which reflects a 3.4 percent raise, is on page 17. (Bottom right) Haitian-Americans sit onboard a C-17 from the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, March Air Reserve Base, Calif., flying from Port-au-Prince to Orlando, Fla., days after the Haitian capital was decimated by a powerful earthquake. For more on the Reserve's response to the crisis, see Page 6 (Staff Sgt. Jacob N. Bailey)

Gen. Norton A. Schwartz *Chief of Staff, United States Air Force*

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In Memory Of

**TECH. SGT.
ANTHONY
CAMPBELL**

(1974-2009)

Tech. Sgt. Anthony C. "Tony" Campbell, 35, of Florence, Ky., died Dec. 15 in Afghanistan from wounds suffered from the detonation of an improvised explosive device. An Air Force Reserve explosive ordnance disposal technician assigned to the 932nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., Sergeant Campbell was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom at the time of his death. As a civilian, Sergeant Campbell was a police officer with the Cincinnati Police Department. He is survived by his wife, Emily; a son, Ryker; a daughter, Jordan; a stepson, Devin Ruberg; his parents, David and Francis Gonzales and Anthony Campbell Sr.; a brother, Nathan Gonzales; a sister, Mattia Craig; and a grandmother, Mildred Witt. He was buried at the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery in Williamstown. Sergeant Campbell's efforts, as well as those of his teammates, "were — and are — invaluable to the thousands of Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen who continue to serve in harm's way, and I dare say we will never know how many lives he and his comrades have saved as a result of their courageous and selfless efforts over the past years," said Col. William H. Edwards Jr., 932nd Airlift Wing commander at Scott AFB.

Reservists rush to help Haitian earthquake victims

Within hours of a massive earthquake devastating the island nation of Haiti Jan. 12, Air Force Reserve units throughout the country were springing into action to join the international effort to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to the Haitian people.

The first response missions were flown Jan. 13. In the first two weeks of Operation Unified Response, Air Force Reserve Command crews conducted more than 85 missions to deliver more than 2 million pounds of cargo into Haiti.

Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., located approximately 25 miles southwest of Miami, was established as one of two aerial ports of embarkation for the relief efforts, serving as a staging area for Air Force, Marine, Navy and Coast Guard troops, equipment and supplies to be flown into Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The primary port of embarkation is Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

In addition, Homestead is functioning as a processing center for people — primarily U.S. citizens — being evacuated from Haiti to the United States on Air Force C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft. As of Jan. 25, Homestead staff and volunteers — working around the clock — had processed more than 2,300 evacuees, helping them connect with relatives and loved ones.

Customs and Border Protection agents are on hand to determine the status of the evacuees.

The sudden influx of people — evacuees as well as those involved in relief operations — led the 482nd Services Squadron to step up its food-service operation. The 482nd began running a 24-hour food operation Jan. 15.

"We've been making between 500 and 800 box lunches a day and serving breakfast, lunch and dinner," said Master Sgt. Cleon McFarlane.

In addition to the box lunches, the 482nd SVS, augmented by members of the 911th SVS from Pittsburgh, is running a 24-hour kitchen, where base personnel and visitors can get a hot meal. And more help was expected from Beale AFB, Calif. ★ (Staff reports)



A C-17 Globemaster III drops humanitarian aid into the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jan. 18. (Tech. Sgt. James L. Harper Jr.)



A medical vehicle rushes in front of a C-17 assigned to the 452nd AMW parked on the ramp at the Port-au-Prince airport. (Kari Tilton)



Haitian-American evacuees exit a C-17 Globemaster III Jan. 18 at Orlando Sanford International Airport, Fla. The C-17 crew is assigned to the 729th Airlift Squadron at March Air Reserve Base, Calif. The aircraft is from the 452nd Air Mobility Wing at March. (Staff Sgt. Jacob N. Bailey)

Air Force Reserve Maj. Joe George, assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown-Warren Air Reserve Station, Ohio, observes as ground cargo handlers use a forklift to load supplies on a C-130H at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, before transporting it to Port-au-Prince.



(Below) Temporarily stationed at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., Tech. Sgt. Valerie McFadden, a Reserve aerial port specialist from the 46th Aerial Port Squadron at Dover Air Force Base, Del., builds a pallet of bottled water before it is flown to Haiti. (Master Sgt. Chance Babin)



Round the Reserve

A brief look at what's happening throughout Air Force Reserve Command

Wear of New Pullover, V-Neck Sweater Approved

The chief of staff approved in December wear of the new pullover, v-neck sweater. The sweater, which is 50 percent acrylic and 50 percent wool, is lighter than the 100 percent wool version and has a more relaxed fit.

The sweater is available in Army and Air Force Exchange Service and military clothing sales stores.

According to a message distributed by

Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel, initial distribution of the 50/50 pullover sweater included a Velcro air-crew-style name patch. However, the name patch has been removed.

General Newton said Airmen who purchased the sweater with the name patch can take it to any AAFES or military clothing sales store to have it removed at no charge.

Nametags will not be worn on the 50/50 pullover sweater, he said. Also,

nametags will no longer be worn on the 100 percent wool pullover sweater. All other wear guidance for the pullover sweater remains consistent with Air Force Instruction 36-2903.

General Newton said the phase-out date for the 100-percent wool pullover sweater is Oct. 1, 2010.

For information about these changes in policy, contact the Air Force Personnel Center toll free at 800-525-0102 or DSN 665-5000. (Staff reports)

Process Ensures Reservists Get Credit for Service

In December, the chief of Air Force Reserve signed a policy letter concerning the process for ensuring Air Force Reservists who are ordered or called to active-duty receive credit for their service.

Having a process to properly document active-duty service time ensures Reservists receive all of the benefits they are entitled to according to law.

In his policy letter, Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr. directed that all active-duty orders — Military Personnel Appropriation as well as Reserve Personnel Appropriation — include a reference to the appropriate section of law under U.S. code by which a member is ordered or called to active duty.

"Traditionally, active-duty service was tracked primarily for determining retirement eligibility and benefits, and all active-duty service counted as points toward the retirement benefit," said Col. Shaun Kelleher, director of personnel with the Office of Air Force Reserve in the Pentagon. "As the demand for active-duty service for Reservists increased, Congress improved some benefits and added others to encourage continued or future service.

"Eligibility for these new and enhanced benefits is contingent upon members performing active-duty service under certain sections of Title 10, so not all active-duty service performed by a Reservist will count toward these new and improved benefits.

"The challenge is in tracking what active-duty service qualifies Reservists for these benefits and what does not,"

Colonel Kelleher said. "The goal is to eventually have the process for tracking qualifying service automated by the personnel data systems, much like retirement points tracking is accomplished today. In the meantime, placing the authorizing section of law on the orders will provide proof of credit toward these new benefits."

Until statements can be inserted automatically via the Air Force Reserve Order Writing System, orders administrators will ensure the appropriate section of Title 10 U.S. code authorizing Reservists' active-duty service is included on all orders. To ensure service is credited appropriately, it is Reservists' responsibility to confirm their orders are correct.

This new policy, coupled with individual Reservists' vigilance, will ensure active-duty service is properly credited toward these benefits, Colonel Kelleher said.

While most of the active-duty service a Reservist performs will be creditable toward benefits, such as reduced eligibility age for retirement pay below age 60 and the Post-9/11 GI Bill, service performed under certain limited sections of the law is not qualifying service. An example of non-qualifying service is annual tour. Therefore, it is important that orders accurately reflect the section of law under which Reservists perform their active-duty service, the colonel said.

Most orders will fall within just a few sections of law. The most common authorization for both Reserve Personnel Allocation and Military Personnel Allocation orders is Title 10 U.S. Code §12301(d), which covers both additional training and operational support, Colonel Kelleher said. When mobilized under partial mobilization, the authority is Title 10 U.S. Code §12302. Annual tour is authorized under Title 10 U.S. Code §12301(b).

Of these three authorizations, both §12301(d) and §12302 are creditable for the new benefits as outlined in the attachment to the policy letter, Colonel Kelleher said.

General Stenner's policy letter is available on the Web at <http://www.afrc.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100104-006.pdf>. (Staff reports)

Officials Encourage Guard, Reserve Members to Honor Patriotic Employers

Providing pay and benefits during deployments, sending care packages to deployed employees, allowing time off, and celebrating military service with send-off and homecoming ceremonies are just a few commitments that the Guard and Reserve's top employers are honored for each year.

Officials with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve organization in Arlington, Va., are asking Guard and Reserve service members to speak out and honor their patriotic employers.

With ongoing global operations, support from employers for Guard and Reserve service is more critical now than ever, official said.

The ESGR's mission is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support. It also increases awareness of the laws governing Guard and Reserve service and resolves potential employer-service member conflicts through mediation.

It's Your Money

'The Power'

By Ralph Lunt



A new year, a new decade. What better time for those who don't have "the power" to work toward attaining it? Let me explain.

I do several pre/post-deployment Yellow Ribbon events each year, and, by far, the bulk of the questions I receive relates to debt and credit. A lot of service members and their spouses don't understand credit scores or reports, and they feel intimidated and bullied when it comes to financial transactions.

Many of you remember when you bought your first vehicle. I'll bet you still can picture that "let me check with my manager" dog and pony show! I do!

The salesman I dealt with did his best to "sell up" this brand-new butter bar, but I held firm. I had the ad from the newspaper in hand and was leaving with nothing other than the 1984 S-10 4x4 Blazer affordably priced at \$11,800. The one with a college grad discount on the 14.5 percent loan rate.

Problem was I had no clue how the whole credit score thing worked, much less what mine was. This meant I was powerless when I sat in front of the "finance manager" while he ran a credit check on me. He had the power, not me. And not much has changed in 25 years.

I think we'd all like to put an end to that. There's plenty of information at the library and on the internet about credit reports/scores, the pitfalls of payday loans, budgeting, you name it. Yet, we still see security clearances pulled and troops in over their heads. There is no overnight fix for this, and, to be fair, part of the problem is not all are genuinely concerned with the fiscal health of our military members. Given that, I'll offer the following Web resources as a starting point:

- <http://www.saveandinvest.org/Military/index.htm>
- <http://www.nfcc.org/>
- <http://creditfairy.org/>
- <https://www.annualcreditreport.com>

Additionally, for those leaders in a position to influence training, what would it take to make basic financial training part of initial and recurring processes? If we can emphasize the 101 critical days of summer every year, why not the 365 critical days of financial management? We are hands down the most envied fighting force on the planet. Let's work toward being the most financially educated and "powerful" as well! ★

(Editor's note: This feature is designed to provide financial advice and information of a general nature. Individuals should conduct their own research and consult a financial adviser before making any financial decisions. Based in Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Lunt is a certified financial planner and vice president of a financial planning and consulting firm. He is also a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve, serving as the reserve forces director for the Great Lakes region of the Civil Air Patrol adviser's program.)



SURGICAL TEAM MAKES A DIFFERENCE — Lt. Col. Arnold Stocker, a certified registered nurse anesthetist with the 920th Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., comforts a young patient prior to administering general anesthesia so a doctor could remove a cyst on his chest. Colonel Stocker was a member of a five-person forward surgical team assigned to Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines. The team spent four months on the southern Filipino island of Jolo operating a fully equipped trauma center, providing emergency care, basic medical care and educational services to hundreds of local citizens and U.S. troops. It is the only treatment center of its kind on the island and is staffed on a rotational basis. During Colonel Stocker's deployment, all five of the team members were from the Air Force. In addition to Colonel Stocker, the team comprised a general surgeon, two physician assistants specially trained in orthopedics and emergency medicine, and one operating room technician.

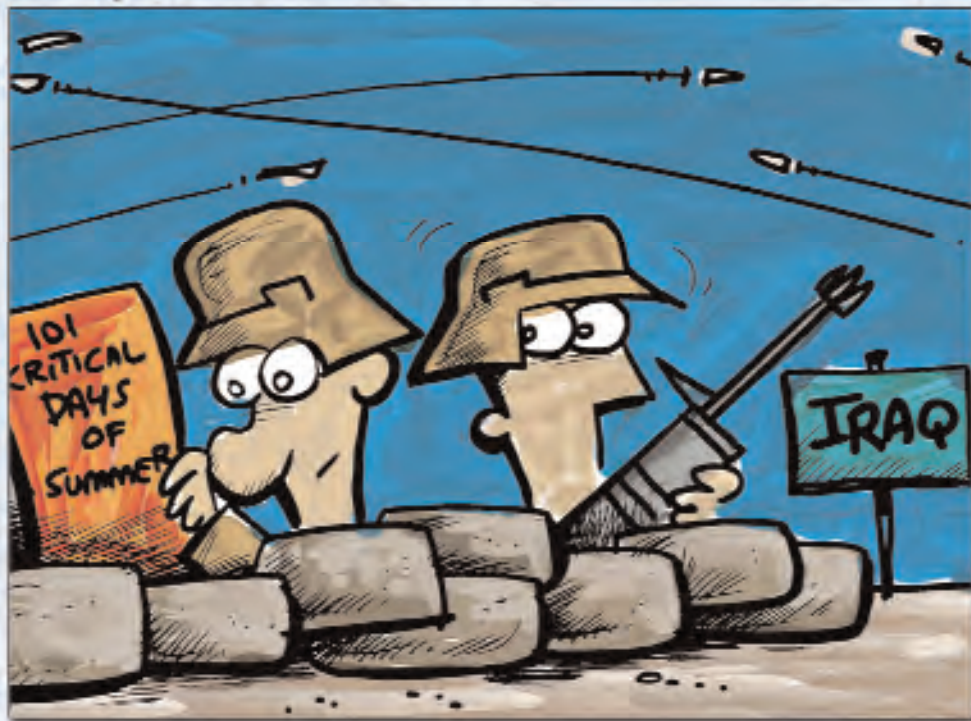
Guard and Reserve leaders continually stress how critical the support of families, communities and employers is to the defense of the nation.

"If you added up all of your family members and all the employers you touch, we have over a million people who directly know what we do with the National Guard of the United States," said Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Guard and Reserve service members can nominate their employers for the Patriot Award at <http://www.esgr.org>.

The award recognizes employers with a certificate and an accompanying lapel pin. Nominees are considered for other awards and recognition based on their level of support. (Master Sgt. Mike Smith, National Guard Bureau) ★

Pope's Pun



CARTOON BY RETIRED MASTER SGT. W.C. POPE



STACY VAUGHN

ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN — The 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, participated with the Air Force Security Assistance Center and the base's 88th Air Base Wing Dec. 23 to transport aboard a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft two snow removal vehicles and associated snow removal equipment to Kabul, Afghanistan. The plows will be used to clear runways at Kabul International Airport for the Afghan National Army Air Corps.

From the TRICARE Advisor

Keeping up with Tricare

Tricare is robust health coverage with an ever-evolving benefit package, which, in my opinion, provides beneficiaries with first-class coverage.

Top military leaders and members of Congress are always seeking ways to improve benefits while containing costs in order to preserve those benefits. This places a great strain on the system and often causes confusion among beneficiaries regarding benefits.

Recently, I was asked how "we" as users can possibly know how to keep up with changes to Tricare? Admittedly, this can be a daunting job in itself, but there are a few simple tools Tricare offers to help you keep abreast.

If you have taken the time to read your benefits booklet, browse the Tricare Web site, find the online fact sheets on more than 50 specific topics and read the periodic mailed bulletins sent from the Tricare contractor for your region, you have been able to keep up with the changes that allow you to fully leverage Tricare's health benefits.

However, I found what keeps me sharp and on top of looking for changes are the news releases and e-mail news subscriptions that are delivered right to my e-mail inbox.

For example, did you know that if you use a certain type of over-the-counter medication, you may be able to get it at no cost? This information is available to all beneficiaries with e-mail accounts. The e-mails are generally short in nature and provide some detail and advance notice to better benefits or changing rules.

Following are the links where you may subscribe and read about the changes made in 2009 and the over-the-counter benefit. After that are two recent Tricare news releases.

- Tricare Press Room:
<http://www.tricare.mil/pressroom/default.aspx>.
- Subscription Services:
https://service.govdelivery.com/service/multi_subscribe.html?code=USMHSTMA.
- 2009 Year in Review:
<http://www.tricare.mil/customerservicecommunity/>.
- Tricare Continues to Offer Select OTC Medications at Zero Co-pay:
<http://www.tricare.mil/pressroom/news.aspx?fid=579>.

Transitioning with Tricare

The activation and deactivation cycle for National Guard and Reserve members can be a challenging process for service members and their families. Tricare now offers many options for recently deactivated Guardsmen, Reservists and their families to maintain their health during the transition from active duty back to civilian life.

After serving in contingency operations for more than 30 days, deactivated Guardsmen, Reservists and their family members are eligible to receive care through the



**Lt. Col.
Alexander Alex**

Transitional Assistance Management Program for 180 days after deactivation. TAMP participants can choose Tricare Standard or Tricare Prime if it is locally available. Under TAMP, Tricare Prime requires re-enrollment for sponsors and family members, but there are no fees associated with enrollment.

During TAMP, if a Guardsman or Reservist has a newly diagnosed medical condition that can be resolved within 180 days of diagnosis and the condition is service-related, he or she may apply for Transitional Care for Service-Related Conditions. To treat the condition, TCSRC extends transitional coverage for up to 180 additional days from the date of diagnosis. For more information, go to <http://www.tricare.mil/tcsrc>.

Tricare Reserve Select was created to support Reservists and Guardsmen and their families while they're not on active duty. TRS is premium-based coverage qualified Guard and Reserve members may purchase at any time. For 2009, premiums were \$47.51 per month for individual coverage and \$180.17 per month for member-and-family coverage, and rates are adjusted annually. Participants can get care from any Tricare-authorized provider and in military treatment facilities on a space-available basis. TRS participants must meet a deductible based on the sponsor's pay grade before cost-sharing of services begins.

Dental Program Premiums Set

The Tricare Dental Program's 1.9 million enrollees will see a slight increase in their monthly premiums, beginning Feb. 1. The new annual rates are effective for one year.


Tricare Dental Program premiums are determined by the plan (single or family) and the duty status (active or reserve) of the sponsor. If and when the sponsor's duty status changes, his or her premiums also change to reflect the new duty status.

The monthly premium for an active-duty family member single plan will increase from \$12.12 to \$12.69, and the monthly family plan premium will increase from \$30.29 to \$31.72.

The National Guard and Reserve monthly sponsor premium will increase from \$12.12 to \$12.69. For National Guard and Reserve family members, the monthly single family member plan goes from \$30.29 to \$31.72, and the family plan premium will increase from \$75.73 to \$79.29.

The monthly single premium rate for an Individual Ready Reserve sponsor plan and the separate IRR single family member plan will increase from \$30.29 to \$31.72. The monthly IRR family member premium will increase from \$75.73 to \$79.29. ★

(I'm always pleased to receive e-mails and engage with beneficiaries. If you have a question regarding a benefit as it relates to a Reserve member or family beneficiary member, e-mail me at Alexander.Alex@us.af.mil.)



**In a mission that requires
absolute perfection, Reservists
are involved right down to the core**

The B-2 Spirit is a multi-role bomber capable of delivering both conventional and nuclear munitions. After Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz made reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise the Air Force's No.1 priority in August 2008, Air Force Reservists have been heavily involved in the effort to restore the service's culture of nuclear excellence.

REINVIGORATING THE NUCLEAR LOGISTICS ENTERPRISE

Air Force Reservists are playing key roles as part of the joint team dedicated to the high standards of compliance, discipline and accountability in the nuclear logistics enterprise.

In August 2008, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz made reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise the Air Force's No. 1 priority after two highly publicized incidents. One incident involved the shipment of parts for nuclear missiles to Taiwan. Air Force officials mistakenly believed the equipment

to be helicopter batteries. In the other incident, nuclear-tipped cruise missiles were improperly transported under the wing of a B-52 from North Dakota to Louisiana.

Air Force Reserve individual mobilization augmentees Col. Melissa Weydert, assigned to Air Force Materiel Command, and Lt. Col. Bob Macfarlane, assigned to the Air Staff, were key members of the Air Force team that responded to the logistics incident.

"The secretary of defense directed the Air Force and Navy to conduct a world-

wide inventory of all nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons-related materiel and evaluate the adequacy of our supply chain processes," Colonel Weydert said. "At AFMC headquarters (Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio), we set up a response cell to handle all information requests to and from the Pentagon and the Department of Defense investigation team.

"What I thought was going to be an intense few weeks quickly became a full-time job, and finding other Reservists to assist became a priority."

Since then, AFMC has used Reservists to help conduct inventories, develop policy and manage projects.

"It has been an awesome experience for me," Colonel Weydert said. "Bringing in a team of Reservists and supporting the active duty in this vital endeavor has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career."

In April 2008, Colonel Macfarlane responded to an e-mail sent to Pentagon Reservists asking for help on an emergency crisis.

"I was scheduled to start my annual

tour, so I volunteered to help for a few weeks," he said "That was 18 months ago."

The colonel joined the special actions team responsible for fielding hundreds of questions from the DOD investigation team.

"As the weeks progressed, it was clear from the questions (being asked) that the team was widening the investigation's scope as it uncovered more serious and systemic issues within the nuclear enterprise," Colonel Macfarlane said. "During the investigation, we developed a picto-

rial brief to inform the Air Force secretary and senior leaders on what happened, why it happened and how we're going to fix it."

Since then, he said, the team has given the briefing at numerous conferences and incorporated it into a case study for the logistics schoolhouse.

"There are high expectations of anyone assigned to the Pentagon, and it's no less for Reservists," Colonel Macfarlane said. "I believe it's like that throughout the Air Force these days. As Lt. Gen. Loren Reno (deputy chief of staff for logistics, instal-

lations and mission support) likes to point out, 'It doesn't say Reservist anywhere on your uniform.'"

A major lesson learned by the Air Force was the need to establish positive inventory control over a new class of assets called nuclear weapons-related materiel. NWRM comprises the components whose purpose is to pre-arm, arm, launch or release a nuclear weapon. It includes items on re-entry systems, and fighters and bombers, as well as in missile alert and launch facilities.

"PIC is the ability to identify and account for the condition and location of material anywhere in the supply chain, at any point in time," said Lt. Col. Mike Sander, a Reservist assigned to the AFMC Directorate of Logistics. "Now we are managing each NWRM item down to the serial number level and putting in place electronic data capture tools to take advantage of readily available technologies, such as bar-coding and passive radio frequency identification device tags."

A first step to gaining positive inventory control was to transfer all NWRM from the Defense Logistics Agency to the Air Force. Chief Master Sgt. Ernie A. Guttery, an IMA Reservist assigned to the 827th Aircraft Sustainment Group at Tinker AFB, Okla., led the effort to renovate the 40,000-square-foot NWRM storage facility at Hill AFB, Utah.

"In just 122 days, we designed a state-of-the-art facility; renovated an existing warehouse; installed new storage racks, security systems and information technology equipment; purchased new vehicles and materiel handling equipment; and trained new personnel," Chief Guttery said. "It was an amazing effort."

Reserve Staff Sgt. Nikisha Rounkles of the 419th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Hill AFB recently joined the PIC team.

"We opened the PIC facility in January 2009," Sergeant Rounkles said. "By June, we had inspected and inducted more than 10,000 NWRM assets."

The Hill AFB team also attached a radio frequency ID tag to each container as it was brought into the facility. In November, the team started physically marking each NWRM item with a unique item identifier, which effectively gives each asset a bar-code label.

"We couldn't have moved so quickly and efficiently without



Air Force Reservists inventory nuclear weapons-related material at the Tooele Army Depot in Utah.



Chief Master Sgt. Ernie Guttery, an individual mobilization augmentee assigned to the 827th Aircraft Sustainment Group at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., checks out equipment at Tinker's new positive inventory control facility. Chief Guttery led the effort to renovate the 40,000-square-foot nuclear weapons-related material storage building.

the knowledge and experience of our Reservists," said Chief Guttery, who is leading the effort to stand up a second PIC facility at Tinker AFB. He said this facility will store NWRM assets for aircraft and cruise missiles that are repaired at the Tinker maintenance facilities. The Air Force Global Logistics Support Center will then assume responsibility for the Tinker and Hill facilities.

"We still have a lot of work to ensure the Air Force has secure facilities and controls of all its NWRM throughout the supply chain," Chief Guttery said. "In addition to the new facilities, we're implementing new processes, procedures and systems. Training and manning are two very critical pieces that must be accomplished to be successful."

Problems in the nuclear logistics enterprise extended beyond inventory control issues. Lt. Col. Joe Savage, a traditional Reservist with the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson AFB, is helping to address issues related to engineering sustainment and technical order guidance.

"Technicians were failing to document repairs made to missile components, documentation wasn't standardized and in accordance with policy, and in some cases the authority for making repairs wasn't clear or correct," Colonel Savage said.

His efforts also include making more technical orders avail-



Lt. Col. Robert McFarlane, an IMA who has been working on the special actions team responsible for fielding hundreds of questions from the Defense Department team investigating the Air Force's nuclear logistics enterprise, pauses while shooting a strategic communication video at Hill AFB, Utah.

able electronically via a Web site or on a laptop computer for users in the field.

"Our goal is to make the most current technical data available to our technicians in an easy-to-use format," he said.

Colonel Savage is leading weekly teleconferences with AFMC's engineering community to work through more than 90 action items.

"We have a cross-functional team from AFMC headquarters, the air logistics centers and the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center that is working these issues on a daily basis," the colonel said. "My role is to coordinate the completion of the action items and provide status updates to senior leadership here at AFMC and then up to the Air Staff."

"Working on such an important, high-visibility project has been an amazing experience. It's been very rewarding to serve alongside my active-duty counterparts and know that I'm making a real and valuable contribution to our nation's future readiness."

Traditional Reservist Lt. Col. Betty Bullington is the 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron commander at Whiteman AFB, Mo. She regularly performs man-days as the Logistics Division deputy chief at Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.

Since February 2009, she's been the logistics lead responding to the many inquiries related to the intercontinental ballistic missiles under AFSPC's control. She was instrumental in getting the word out to the field as policies evolved in an effort to gain PIC over the many NWRM assets at the command's missile bases.

"It makes me feel good to know I had a part in refocusing the supply chain processes in AFSPC to meet the chief of staff's No.

1 goal," Colonel Bullington said.

Reservists have also contributed to the demilitarization of more than 100,000 nuclear weapons-related assets no longer needed from the Air Force's legacy ICBM, aircraft and space test programs.

"The 'de-mil' program saves money we would otherwise spend to store, secure, inventory and maintain assets intact, and allows the Air Force to manage remaining nuclear weapons-related materiel with greater precision, reliability and security," said Maj. Gen. Kathleen Close, director of logistics and sustainment for AFMC.

The Air Force is making good progress on reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise, but there's more work to be done. It will also take time to see the effects of organizational changes, like the standup of Global Strike Command to primarily focus on the nuclear mission, and cultural changes, like requiring units to conduct root cause analysis of all major inspection findings.

"We need to restore the culture of nuclear excellence in the Air Force," Colonel Macfarlane said. "All Airmen must realize the importance of their daily tasks in executing the nuclear mission successfully. It doesn't matter if you're shipping nuclear parts, maintaining an ICBM, or flying a nuclear-capable bomber or fighter, the nuclear mission requires perfection." ★

(This story was written from information provided by Reserve members of the joint team working to achieve the chief of staff's No. 1 priority of reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise.)



Staff Sgt. Nikisha Rounkles, a Reservist assigned to the 419th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Hill AFB, prepares nuclear weapons-related material assets for shipment.

The ART Program

Hiring an air reserve technician: Where it all begins

Tech. Sgt. Christian J. Michael

(Editor's note: This is the first of a three-part series on the air reserve technician program and the process for hiring new ARTs.)

Air reserve technicians are mainstays of continuity and experience for the Air Force Reserve, running unit missions and weapon systems during the month while traditional Reservists are away performing their civilian jobs. Without them, daily operations would cease and unit training assemblies at Reserve units would have no enduring coordination.

The ART program and hiring process have evolved in recent years, with new emphasis on the need for ARTs and the advent of specialized programs to fill empty slots. To find ARTs, recruiters first look to the regular Air Force.

"My primary focus has been on recruiting Air Force Reserve members who are traditional Reservists and on active-duty Air Force members who are interested in the stability of an ART position," said Master Sgt. David Beach, ART recruiter for Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Historically, active-duty members have been the most qualified to fill ART positions. Now, through a new program, the Reserve prepares traditional Reservists for the same demands. This has opened up a greater pool of Airmen from which to recruit.

"The implementation of the Seasoning Training Program has offered ART opportunities to many TR members who, in the past, would not have been qualified," Sergeant Beach said.

ART-specific recruiters are a new commodity for the Reserve, and, according to Master Sgt. William Hose, ART recruiter for Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., they are working out well.

"I have had a very good success rate in the Northeast United States," Sergeant Hose said. "Most people who meet the qualifications for these positions ... have been selected for hire. We

have 12 recruiters across the country who are having the same types of reactions to our efforts. We are seeing that ART recruiters are making things happen to meet the needs of the wings we're here to support."

Making things happen includes not only recruiting ARTs but also serving as liaisons between people seeking jobs and those doing the hiring.

"The ART recruiter position has allowed for the establishment of a link between applicants and hiring officials," Sergeant Hose said. "This allows the ART recruiter to match qualified applicants with the needs of the Air Force Reserve. A secondary benefit has been the ART recruiter's ability to act as the subject matter expert for the wing commander and hiring officials."

Being the backbone of a Reserve unit has many benefits recruiters like Sergeant Beach use to attract new ARTs.

"Positive aspects of being an ART include the ability to continue serving as a member of the Air Force Reserve with the flexibility of choosing what base to serve at," he said. "Also, there's the opportunity to become part of the local community without having to PCS every three years. Active-duty Air Force members are attract-

ed to the standardized deployment schedules and rotations offered by the Air Force Reserve."

ARTs may wear uniforms every day and abide by customs and courtesies, but they are paid on a civilian pay scale and abide by civilian employment regulations. That includes the ability to move where and when an ART wants or to leave the ART service as desired. ★

(Sergeant Michael is assigned to the 22nd Air Force public affairs office at Dobbins ARB, Ga. Part two of this series is scheduled for the April issue and will focus on the application process.)

The ART application package

To apply for an air reserve technician position, external applicants must submit a package to include the following:

- A resume or an Optional Application for Federal Employment Form 612.
- An ATAFR form (employee availability statement form (ATAFR 202).
- If applying for an aircrew position, a form (ATAFR 209) required to extend eligibility.
- If claiming 10-point veteran's preference, a Standard Form 15 along with a Veterans Administration letter dated 1991 or later.
- A copy of Defense Department Form 214. Forms can be found online at <http://www.afrc.af.mil/library/jobs>

Applications received by the 25th of each month will be processed for issuing certificates the following month. If the 25th is a non-workday, applications received the next workday after the 25th will be processed for the cut-off date.

In order to meet the monthly cut-off, applications may be mailed, faxed or hand-delivered. No electronic application packages will be accepted. Mail applications to Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Special Examining Unit, 135 Page Road, Robins AFB, Ga. 31098-1601. The fax number is commercial 478-327-0112 or DSN 497-0112.

For information, contact the Special Examining Unit at 478-327-0113 or DSN 497-0113. ★

(Staff reports)

2010 RESERVE PAY FOR FOUR DRILLS

	Years of Service																	
	<2	>2	>3	>4	>6	>8	>10	>12	>14	>16	>18	>20	>22	>24	>26	>30	>34	>38
O-7	1,041	1,090	1,112	1,130	1,162	1,194	1,231	1,267	1,304	1,420	1,518	1,518	1,518	1,518	1,525	1,556	1,556	1,556
O-6	772	848	904	904	907	946	951	951	1,005	1,101	1,157	1,213	1,245	1,277	1,340	1,366	1,366	1,366
O-5	643	725	775	784	816	834	876	906	945	1,005	1,033	1,061	1,093	1,093	1,093	1,093	1,093	1,093
O-4	555	643	686	695	735	778	831	872	901	917	927	927	927	927	927	927	927	927
O-3	488	553	597	651	682	717	739	775	794	794	794	794	794	794	794	794	794	794
O-2	422	480	553	572	584	584	584	584	584	584	584	584	584	584	584	584	584	584
O-1	366	381	461	461	461	461	461	461	461	461	461	461	461	461	461	461	461	461
O-3E	-	-	-	651	682	717	739	775	806	823	847	847	847	847	847	847	847	847
O-2E	-	-	-	572	584	602	634	658	676	676	676	676	676	676	676	676	676	676
O-1E	-	-	-	461	492	510	529	547	572	572	572	572	572	572	572	572	572	572
E-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	609	623	641	661	682	715	743	772	817	858	901	946
E-8	-	-	-	-	-	499	521	535	551	569	601	617	645	660	698	712	712	712
E-7	347	379	393	412	427	453	467	493	515	529	545	551	571	582	623	623	623	623
E-6	300	330	344	359	374	407	420	445	452	458	465	465	465	465	465	465	465	465
E-5	275	293	307	322	345	368	388	390	390	390	390	390	390	390	390	390	390	390
E-4	252	265	279	293	306	306	306	306	306	306	306	306	306	306	306	306	306	306
E-3	227	242	256	256	256	256	256	256	256	256	256	256	256	256	256	256	256	256
E-2	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216
E-1	193	193	193	193	193	193	193	193	193	193	193	193	193	193	193	-	-	-
E-1 with less than four months: \$179																		
Source: DefenseLink																		
All amounts rounded to nearest dollar.																		

E-1 with less than four months: \$179

Source: DefenseLink

All amounts rounded to nearest dollar.

PRODUCTIVITY

New software improves efficiency, saves time

By Capt Amy West

With the level of activity at such a high rate throughout Air Force Reserve Command, you would be hard-pressed to find anyone who wouldn't like to simplify their job. With that goal in mind, AFRC is rolling out a new software program designed to improve efficiency and save people time.

The Task Management Tool is a multi-faceted program that provides a framework for creating, tracking, answering and managing a wide range of taskers, significantly improving workflow efficiency for the command's 4,000 action officers, said Bret Wilson, chief of the Network Systems Division within the Directorate of Communications at Headquarters AFRC, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

"The program offers rapid task creation, real-time visibility, collaboration, standardization and an audit trail while eliminating duplication and storage space," Mr. Wilson said.

Initial program deployment began in January at the headquarters, the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver and the Office of Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon. AFRC's numbered air forces and wings can expect to begin using the program by July.

"This isn't just another software program for users to learn," said Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., AFRC commander. "The benefits are numerous, and TMT will drastically improve the way taskers are managed in the command."

Breck Ruppelius, principle consultant for Ascentium Federal and facilitating functional manager for AFRC's TMT installation, highlighted some of the program's features.

Interfacing with Microsoft Office Outlook and the SharePoint server, users will experience an easy-to-use environment with a familiar look and feel, Mr. Ruppelius said.

The Outlook integration provides rapid task creation. With a single click of a button, TMT packages an Outlook e-mail, adds a tracking number, and allows the initiator to include additional comments, a suspense date, and select the offices of primary responsibility and coordinating responsibility, he said.

Another program feature, Mr. Ruppelius said, is a centralized repository for supporting documents and comments related to a task. Data is saved at one team site for all action officers to upload documents to a single location or library associated with the particular task, allowing them to collaborate on a single document.

Additionally, centralized storage ensures all users have access to any documents associated with a task at any time.

"Oftentimes what happens now is users save e-mails and documents related to a task on their own computers, so the files are not available once members change duty stations or are on leave," Mr. Ruppelius said. That's not the case when using TMT. With the documents stored on a server, they are readily accessible today or five years from now, he said.

Mr. Wilson said this features gives users the ability to research previous tasks, enhancing the quality and timeliness of responses.

An added benefit to having single-source storage is the space saved on the network server.

"When each user saves a copy of a working document, it takes up bandwidth," Mr. Ruppelius said. "With centralized storage, members no longer need to save the document or e-mail trail."

U.S. Air Forces in Europe was the first major command to use this task management program, implementing it in 2007. Studies show USAFE has achieved a 90-percent reduction in data storage. Mr. Ruppelius said he expects AFRC to experience similar results.

Throughout the life of a tasker, users have real-time visibility on the item's status.

"There's no more picking up the phone to hunt down the location and status," Mr. Ruppelius said. "Instead, users can easily view this information within the tasking package."

With these features, TMT has proven to be a significant time-saver, Mr. Ruppelius said.

"After USAFE's implementation, EOs (executive officers) saved an hour a day, while AOs (action officers) spent 10 minutes less a day on tasker management," he said.

When it's time for the commander's review and/or approval, "it's one-stop shopping," Mr. Ruppelius said. "Since TMT packages all associated comments, e-mails and documents within each tasker, a complete picture is presented for the commander's review or approval."

TMT also offers a dashboard capability, which provides real-time metrics to measure the task completion rate, Mr. Wilson said.

During program implementation, users at the action officer, executive officer and senior leader levels will receive in-depth training, Mr. Ruppelius said. In addition, templates and intuitive training modules are available within the program to ensure standardization and ease of use.

AFRC is joining the ranks of other major commands, combatant commands and services already using TMT. Recognizing a need to improve task management within AFRC, General Stenner commissioned a 17-member integrated process team in March 2009 to chart a way ahead. Team members surveyed representatives throughout the command, who identified 120 requirements. IPT members reviewed the four best candidate systems and scored them against these requirements, recommending TMT for implementation. ★

(Captain West is an individual mobilization augmentee assigned to the 56th Fighter Wing public affairs office at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. She wrote this story while on a temporary duty assignment at the Headquarters AFRC public affairs office, Robins AFB, Ga.)

www.usafservices.com

Air Force launches new community Web site

Master Sgt. Stan Parker

Air Force officials have launched a new Web site to meet social and informational needs of Airmen, civilians, retirees and their families.

The entire Air Force family — all Airmen, married and single; spouses; children; Air Force civilians; and retirees — are invited to log on to <http://www.usafservices.com>, the official community Web site of the Air Force.

The Web site enables users to add friends, send messages, and update their personal profiles to notify family and friends about themselves.

Registered users will find the site allows for real-time socializing through the use of private or public chats, according to Eliza Nesmith, Airmen and Family Services chief. Officials aren't just optimistic based on the site's popularity but also by feedback received regarding its functionality.

Additionally, users can join networks or create forums based on topics of their choice, such as deployed spouse support and families with special needs.

"The new Web site is going to be very exciting and useful for Airmen and their families," Ms. Nesmith said. "We have about 2,200 users who are using the site right now, from an initial 600."

Although Airmen and families may be surprised by the absence of Air Force Crossroads, officials emphasized this important capability will continue to exist under the new domain.

Airmen will see advantages of the new site, particularly the new social networking feature, Ms. Nesmith said. The feature, called "My Journal," is found under the "Share" tab and functions similar to Facebook.

It allows registered users to invite friends, join groups and post photos or videos. Like commercial sites, users can restrict

access to allow only those known to them to view their information and post messages.

Active-duty members, retirees, Reservists, Guardsmen, Department of Defense employees and others who are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System may register as users on the site.

Users will notice that the Web site does not require the use of a common access card, but under optimized security measures, users can create a unique account username and a 15-character password, Ms. Nesmith said.

Despite increased security measures, the site is accessible from government and personal computers, she said.

Air Force officials weighed the decision to discontinue GI Mail. Over the past few years, officials have noticed the feature was an important tool for families to stay in touch, while others used it for their official mail or even to pay bills.

"We are very sensitive to drawing down that capability. ... but the social networking and contact with family during a deployment is going to be an easy and important part of usafservices.com," Ms. Nesmith said.

While there is no capability or contact list link between Air Force Crossroads/GI Mail and the new usafservices.com Web site, users can click on the Webmaster link to solicit help.

"Once Airmen and their families get accustomed to using the Web site, they will find that it is a very user-friendly site that will give them much more flexibility than they have had on similar Web sites," Ms. Nesmith said.

"During this Year of the Air Force Family, we really want to take a look at policies and procedures and see what we can do better. This is one of them." ★

(Sergeant Parker is assigned to the secretary of the Air Force public affairs office at the Pentagon.)



Following in His Son's Footsteps

(Editor's note: This is the third of a three-part series about Staff Sgt. Francisco "Paco" Martinez, an Airman whose son was killed in Iraq, and how he plans to honor his son's life by protecting others who deploy.)

Deployment helps father find closure following his son's death

By Tech. Sgt. Shawn David McCowan

Staff Sgt Francisco "Paco" Martinez, a member of the 610th Security Forces Squadron, drove toward Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, in the dark hours before dawn. He was about to deploy to Iraq, but his deployment wasn't the first thing on his mind. The road he was driving on made him think about the path he had traveled to get to this point and the son who was never coming home. Full of twists and turns, that path was now leading him to the very place where his son was killed.

Sergeant Martinez was born in America, but his family soon moved to Puerto Rico, where he was raised. He wanted to go to college, but in 1982 he decided to put those plans on hold and joined the Army. He remained on active duty with the Army for two years.

After his two-year term, the sergeant made the move to the Air Force as a security specialist. It was around that time that Sergeant Martinez lost his younger brother. At just 17 years old, his brother was killed by a gunshot wound when an argument escalated in the streets near their home.

Just weeks before Christmas 1991, Sergeant Martinez decided to separate from the Air Force and return to family life. He married Maria Figueroa in 1995. His son, Paquito, was the ring bearer at the wedding.

In 1999, his father, Thomas, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. Sergeant Martinez decided to move his family to Texas to help take care of his father. While there, he became a well-rounded software developer and eventually went to work for IBM. In May 2001, Sergeant Martinez and his wife welcomed a baby daughter, Monica, to the family.

Paquito was the family artist. He wrote poetry, sang, sculpted and painted. While in his senior year at Eastern Hills High School, he was honored with the "Who's Who" award for art. In addition, he shared his father's interest in comput-



Army SPC Francisco "Paquito" Martinez was killed by an Iraqi sniper in 2005.

ers, working as a Web developer, software tester and graphic designer. He eventually would follow his father's footsteps by joining the military, enlisting in the Army.

After his death, "I was a wreck for four months," Sergeant Martinez said. "It really felt like the lights were out everywhere I went. He was the person I was closest to.

"Once I started being able to live again, I could feel there was a way to bring a close to this nightmare. I couldn't avoid the thought of revenge, but I real-

ized I had awakened a unique sense of service.

"I spent a lot of time praying about it, because I didn't understand why things had happened. It was tough to want to leave my family and follow after Paquito, but I also knew in my heart it was something I was in a unique place to do for other parents."

Sergeant Martinez re-enlisted in the Air Force Reserve and went to technical school at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, to become a security forces member.

"I saw all those kids at tech school, all determined to make a difference and defend this country," he said. "I saw my son in every one of them."

He chose benevolence over revenge and became determined to protect the sons and daughters who were still serving.

"I would like to have seen my son come through my door. But I know I have a chance to make sure everyone else's kids get home safely. I can't let that chance slip away."

When Sergeant Martinez arrived in Qatar in 2008 on his way to Iraq, he found another unexpected flashback.

"We landed just miles from the coast," he said. You could smell the seawater. Coming from Puerto Rico, I knew that smell. It was a brief reminder of my youth."

On his first day in Iraq, July 17, the heat index was 136 degrees. It cooled off at night — the temperature getting down

Following his son's death, Paco Martinez joined the Air Force Reserve's 610th Security Forces Squadron, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, so he could help ensure the safety of other young service members serving in the Middle East.

to only 106 degrees. With the difficult environmental conditions and all that was on his mind, Sergeant Martinez only slept about three hours that first night.

He encountered his first emergency during his first patrol. An explosion occurred just 150 meters from the perimeter fence.

"We all took cover, not knowing if this was an IED (improvised explosive device) or an attack," the sergeant said. "It turned out the attacker had targeted an Iraqi police vehicle but hit a civilian vehicle instead, killing the person inside."

From July through November, Sergeant Martinez said he was aware of nearly 30 rocket attacks. In November, he and a patrol partner thought they heard two rocket launches and an explosion. The next morning, he found an impact crater just 100 yards from the patrol area.

"There were plenty of tense days and nights, but I don't think it was bad compared to everyone outside the fence," Sergeant Martinez said. "Not until December, anyway."

In that month alone, his last in the country, Sergeant Martinez experienced nearly 30 attacks.

While he was in Iraq, the sergeant decided not to go to the place where his son was killed. It was a long distance away, and he felt as though it wasn't worth the risk to his fellow Airmen. However, he found closure in other ways.

"Of course, there were many times when I thought about Paquito while I was there," he said. "But it was also rewarding to be there. Once I was there for a few weeks, I began to feel his presence, which was kind of strange. We all have many personalities that characterize us. For my son, there is the Paquito who rode skateboards with me, and there's the Paquito who was a Soldier in Korea.

"But while I was in Iraq, I could feel so in touch with the Paquito who patrolled there. He manifested himself in the people who were with me. We often worked with people from the Army who were doing the same exact patrols done by him."

One of the major duties of Sergeant Martinez's unit was to protect members of the 10th Mountain Division stationed at Kirkuk. Just as his last month in Iraq began, he made a discovery that brought a final sense that he had done what he was meant to do there.

In November, another unit arrived to replace the 10th. It was the 4th Infantry Division. Some of the members were wearing the patch of the 2nd Infantry Division — the one worn by Paquito. Sergeant Martinez asked why they wore that patch. The 4th Infantry Division had absorbed the unit Paquito belonged to. Then it occurred to the sergeant that he really was protecting the very people his son had worked with.

"A feeling of warm calm swept over me, and I was really able to feel a final sense of closure," Sergeant Martinez said. "I feel like I did what God meant for me to do. I helped protect the very people I came here to protect. I only did my little part to keep our Airmen and our Soldiers safe, but those sons and daughters were going home to see their parents. ... and they were safe."

The sergeant returned home safely in January 2009. His first stop was to find his daughter in school and let her know he had done his part. He was back home to be her daddy and start a new chapter in his family's history.

And his family was whole again because he knew he brought his son home in his heart. ★

(Sergeant McCowan is assigned to the 301st Fighter Wing public affairs office at NAS JRB Fort Worth.)

Right on Track

Colorado Reservists support new military cargo tracking system

Story and Photos by Capt Jody L. Ritchie

A C-130 unit in Colorado recently participated in a prototype airdrop in support of an Air Force Academy research project.

The 302nd Airlift Wing at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., used one of its Hercules aircraft to airdrop cargo at the Airburst range at nearby Fort Carson. The operation was in support of a research project sponsored by the academy's Institute for Information Technology Applications and designed to provide war fighters in places like Afghanistan and Iraq with exact details on cargo locations and inventories.

Known as the Airdrop Enhanced Logistics Visibility System, the project combines existing tracker capabilities with automated information and geospatial technologies, providing the exact location of an airdropped container delivery system and its inventory within minutes of the load leaving an aircraft. This technology can also be applied to heavy equipment airdrops, such as vehicles.

During the September airdrop, a recovery team was placed approximately 1,000 yards from the drop zone and was able to identify the exact GPS coordinates of two separate cargo delivery systems. The team was also able to identify the contents of each cargo delivery system immediately after the loads landed.

Simultaneously, a simulated operations center at the academy, located 39 miles north of the drop zone, observed the drop and received cargo delivery system information at the same time as the recovery team. Additionally, personnel at the operations center were able to determine the effectiveness of the drop by using a scoring application developed by contractors working

with the academy's Institute for Information Technology Applications.

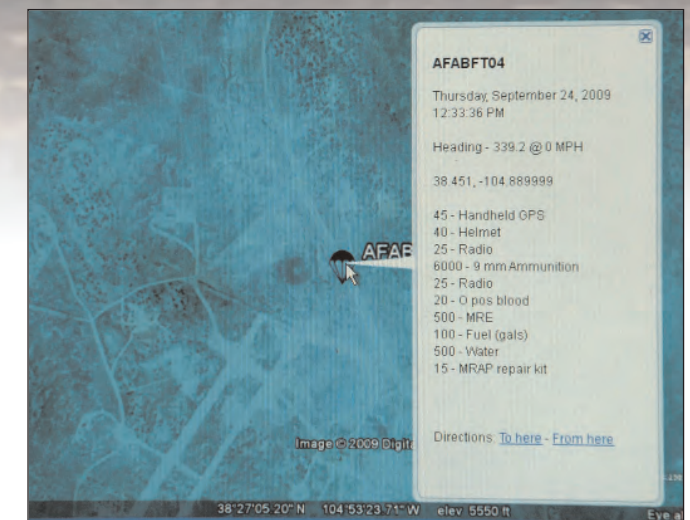
"This project addresses the 'last tactical mile' in airdrop operations," said Lt. Col. Patrick Ryan, project officer for AELVS and a C-130 navigator assigned to the 302nd AW. "With this system, we're providing instantaneous airdrop information to multiple stakeholders. For example, ground commanders at the drop zone can prioritize the recovery of CDS's after an airdrop utilizing our integrated inventory data viewer with the click of a mouse, while operations and support personnel thousands of miles away can accurately score each CDS bundle in reference to the point of impact.

"FedEx determined a long time ago information about a package can be more important than the package itself. We believe in this philosophy and are determined to provide this capability to war fighters, even if it's one CDS at a time,"



Members of the 39th Aerial Port Squadron turn over a cargo pallet after a simulated container delivery system drop.

A simulated container delivery system falls to Earth Sept. 24 after an Air Force Reserve C-130 Hercules assigned to the 302nd Airlift Wing dropped it over Fort Carson, Colo. The drop was in support of a test of the U.S. Air Force Academy's Airdrop Enhanced Logistics Visibility System that demonstrated the ability of commanders in the field and at the headquarters level to simultaneously identify the location and contents of a CDS within minutes of the cargo leaving the aircraft. The AELVS program aims to provide war fighters in locations like Iraq and Afghanistan with exact details on crucial cargo drops for resupply.



A laptop simulates the tracking of a container delivery system and its inventory.

Colonel Ryan said.

The unique nature of the project incorporated the expertise of Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and regular Air Force personnel, providing another example of the value of a Total Force team.

Lt. Col. Freddie Rodriguez, director of reserve research for IITA, makes it a point to incorporate Air Force Reservists, including those from the 302nd AW, who have extensive operational experience. These war fighters, he said, provided real-world experience and input to the concept of real-time cargo tracking.

"This drop demonstrates the value of bringing the war fighter to the research," Colonel Rodriguez said. "Tapping into the deployed and corporate experience of Reservists and the research talent of more than 4,000 cadets and faculty gives us the opportunity to make a difference in the operational Air Force." ★

(Captain Ritchie is assigned to the 302nd AW public affairs office at Peterson AFB.)

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